

“Building Our Sense of Community”

Shelton State Courier

New Series Vol. 5, Number 13

Shelton State Community College

Sept. 27, 2001- Oct. 10, 2001

Shelton carries on as it remembers the fallen

InsideThe Courier

Off The Shelf, pg. 2, tells us about some Irish stories and detective fare

Ben Herdman's contribution to offbeat humor takes us on a visit to Chuck E. Cheese on page 2 in the *Courier's* exclusive **Gouge O' Life**

In Buccaneer Sports, pg. 4, the soccer team struggles, but *we've got a cool pic from their latest game...*

Band Series continues on pg. 6 when the *Courier* reviews bands Downright and Tempered

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The Shelton Singers participated in the memorial event on Sept. 14 at Snow Hinton Park
Photo by Missy Boney

By the Courier Staff

The first few days after the historic, tragic and shocking events of Sept. 11 were ones filled with rumor and the struggle to decide what to do in response. This was true at the college as throughout Tuscaloosa area and the nation.

With a large Middle Eastern population at the University of Alabama (reportedly some 1,200 individuals), rumors abounded that UA was suspending classes. This proved untrue. But what could and should the higher education element of Tuscaloosa do to pay tribute to the more than 6,000 fallen Americans in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.?

Finally the word came that Tuscaloosa was hosting two commemorative events on Friday, Sept. 14—one at the Ferguson Center courtyard at UA at 7 p.m. and the other at Snow Hinton Park at 7:30 p.m.

Shelton decided to participate in both.

Dean of Students Humphrey Lee was called on to represent the college at the university event. Lee, suffering the effects of a broken foot, hobbled dramatically to the podium and spoke of his pride at representing the college as an American of Asian descent.

Playing off the American theme of *E Pluribus Unum*—out of many: one—Lee called on Americans of all races and creeds to unite in brotherhood against violence and discrimination.

Meanwhile, across town the Shelton Singers, under the direction of Glinda Blackshear took the stage, soothing the audience with renditions of some of their favorite songs.

And What Do the Students Think?

A few days after the attack, *The Courier* asked several students for details about how they think these events will affect their lives. Surprising or not, many students seem to feel that the attack will not have as long-lasting an effect on the nation's consciousness as older people have assumed. One of those is Shelton student John Alexander.

Alexander wrote, “The events that took place last Tuesday were astonishing and scary at the same time. Many people are predicting what will happen to the world because of the tragedies. I have never been too good at predicting the future or what will come from a certain event. However, I do not think that the World Trade Center collapse will affect our lives as much as many people believe it will.”

Alexander wrote how he believes it will play out: “Don't get me wrong. I believe it will be at the top of the news for a few months, but then it will die down and people will forget about it. The only thing that will keep this story going for an extremely long time would be war. War

Shelton remembers cont'd on pg. 3



Celebrating Its Heritage—The Fredd campus of Shelton State enjoys a proud history as one of the historically black colleges and universities. Celebrating that heritage are (L-R) Bryant Melton, Fredd campus director; Jean Mack, audio-visual clerk for the Fredd library and Samuel Merriweather, career counselor for Title III. Sept. 16-22 was officially HBCU Week nationally, and educators everywhere recognized the contributions of those institutions which filled a gap in higher education for African-Americans for many years. Located on Martin Luther King Boulevard, Fredd State was founded in 1963 by C.A. Fredd and merged with Shelton in 1994.

By Ben Herdman

Gouge O' Life

It was my nephew's second birthday at Chuck E Cheese's, the place where a kid can be a kid and adults can be on edge. I arrived there at 10 a.m. with a severe hangover that I had earned at around 3 a.m. that same morning.

I could already hear the racket of children playing before I even reached the door. I was greeted at the turnstile by a short bald man wearing a purple bow tie. He reminded me of the guard at the Castle of Oz. I paid my fee and received a stamp on my hand. It was the big goofy grinning face of Chuck E. Cheese staring back at me with those large beady eyes of his.

The image of the ridiculous rodent assured me that I was in a different world now... Chuckie's world. The mark intimidated me. His portrait was pasted all over the place. No matter where I roamed Chuckie's eyes followed.

It was total mayhem. Little children ran around in a frenzy, blowing plastic whistles and terrorizing each other with squirt guns. They climbed all over the monkey bars. They had wars in the sea of multi-colored plastic balls in the net-

ted bin.

My family was already there waiting on me. I sat down and ordered a coffee at once. As I sat there, I couldn't help but feel like the Grinch. "All the noise," I thought, "These kids with their whistles and wuzzles; their squirt guns and fuzzles. All the noise!!"

When the waitress came back I ordered three more cups of coffee since she wouldn't let me order an entire pot. I knew I would need cup after cup if I were going to last the full two and half-hours for which the party was scheduled.

I liked the place much more 10 years ago when it was Show Biz Pizza; when Billy Bob the bear and his puppet oddballs ran the show. Understandably, I was the kid back then, but at least the adults had beer to cushion their nerves while little hellions like myself ran amok.

All of the sudden I was struck in the back of the head by one of those plastic balls, causing me to spill my sixth cup of coffee all over my shirt. Just out of my natural reflexes I stood up quickly with ball in hand, pre-

pared to fire back, but I caught myself before throwing it. "Be calm," I said to myself. "Don't cause a scene." I lowered my hand and tossed the ball gently to a nearby boy. I headed to the restroom to clean myself off.

As I splashed water on my coffee-stained shirt, the one and only Chuck E. Cheese emerged from the stall. I stared hard at the gigantic rat, but he paid me no attention. "Hey Chuck," I said, "how do you do it?" "Do what?" said the muffled voice from behind the mask. "How do you put up with the chaos around here, the noise makers, and your face looking at you from every corner of this joint?" I looked down at my wet shirt. "Oh yeah, and their endless plastic ball wars?"

Chuckie shrugged. "I really don't know, buddy. I ask myself that same question. It's tough, man. I've worked here longer than anyone else, and I don't get paid jack-squat for all the stuff I do."

Then he said something that has really stuck with me. "But somebody's gotta be Chuck E. Cheese."

Off the Shelf...

New works available in the Brooks-Cork Library

By Glen Johnson

On the Best-Seller Shelf...

It's a mystery to me how a book entitled *Yeats Is Dead* could remain on the shelves of a college library for more than just a few days without being checked out, but it looks like this mystery written in collusion by 15 of Ireland's most eminent contemporary writers (including Frank McCourt of *Angela's Ashes*' fame) and edited by Joseph O'Connor hasn't had any bites yet. How can you pass up a book featuring a mob boss named Mrs. Bloom? Oh, well, Horseman pass by.

In Nora Roberts's *The Villa*, savvy businesswoman Sophia Giambelli has misgivings when her family's Nappa Valley vineyard decides to merge with Tyler MacMillan's winery. But the closer she works with Ty, the better she likes this merger.

Detective Alex Cross is back at work in *Roses Are Red* by James Patterson. Now he's

mixing it up with a string of bank robbers whose predilection for detail and perfection in crime commission convinces Det. Cross they are minions of an international criminal who calls himself The Mastermind.

Literature: *Shakespeare's Kings*, by John Norwick; *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding; *Come to Grief*, by Dick Francis; *Rudyard Kipling*, by Harry Ricketts.

Nursing: *Fundamentals of Nursing*, by Patricia Ann Potter; *Majoring in Nursing*, by Janet R. Katz; *Practice Guidelines for Family Nurse Practitioners*, by Karen Fenstermacher; *Running on Ritalin*, by Lawrence H. Diller.

History: *An Elegant Madness*, by Venetia Murray; *A History of London*, by Stephen Inwood; *Hitler's Soldiers in the Sunshine State*, by Robert Billinger; *World Conflicts*, by Patrick Brogan; *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire*, by Lawrence James.

Business: *Team Players and Teamwork*, by Glenn M. Parker; *Incorporating Women*, by Angel Kwolek-Folland; *Leadership*, by Peter Northouse.

Future Issues

This is the thirteenth *Courier* of the year. We will publish twice each month in September, October and November. One per month is set for December and January, 2002. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the *Courier* editorial office at 391-2406.

"Keep Looking Up!"

By Dr. Lee Albritton



Even if you are not a horse person and have a hard time staying up on top of a real horse, the fall night time sky has a special treat for you, a winged horse! Just imagine what it would be like taking a ride on a horse that could fly!

To find the constellation Pegasus, the sky's winged horse, simply look above the

eastern horizon about an hour after sunset and locate four very bright stars in the shape of a large square. These four stars are referred to as the "Great Square" of Pegasus and make the body of the winged horse.

The square is tilted on its side and resembles a baseball diamond, if you were sitting behind home plate. The stars to the

The Winged Horse Pegasus

right of the square make the winged horse's head and front legs. The horse's front legs are pointing up into the sky and his head down toward the horizon. Yes, our winged horse is flying upside down in the fall sky, so be sure to hold on tight!

Get outside on our cool fall nights and look up where you can take a ride on your very own winged horse, Pegasus!

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Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression and all students are

urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

Shelton remembers cont'd from pg. 1

would make this story drag on for at least a year at the minimum. For the next few months, the news and newspapers will be filled with stories of lost loved ones, eyewitness accounts and one-sided opinions."

Student Mark Gregg agreed with Alexander. "I believe things will get back to normal very soon unless we encounter another attack or something of

that magnitude. It will, of course, never be forgotten, but regardless of how devastating and unusual this past week was, life will go on in what seems to be a normal fashion."

Looking for Answers

Many Shelton students seem to have taken notice over the years the complacency over security that might have contributed to the devastation. Donny Wheeler wrote, "Five days ago I had a feeling invincibility about the American mainland. I honestly thought that nothing except a natural disaster could kill a lot of people and make big news. I think the majority of the country shared this view with me."

Wheeler's feeling have changed. "Now the feeling is vulnerability. This feeling of vulnerability is enabling the government to set forth strict guidelines for airport security and for getting in and out of the country."

Where will it all lead, Wheeler wonders. "It will be interesting to watch and see how long public support will last for the president and the government. As long as they prevent anything else from happening, then they probably will get the support. The people want to feel secure again. If the president can restore this feeling, then he will have done an amazing job."

Our Choices

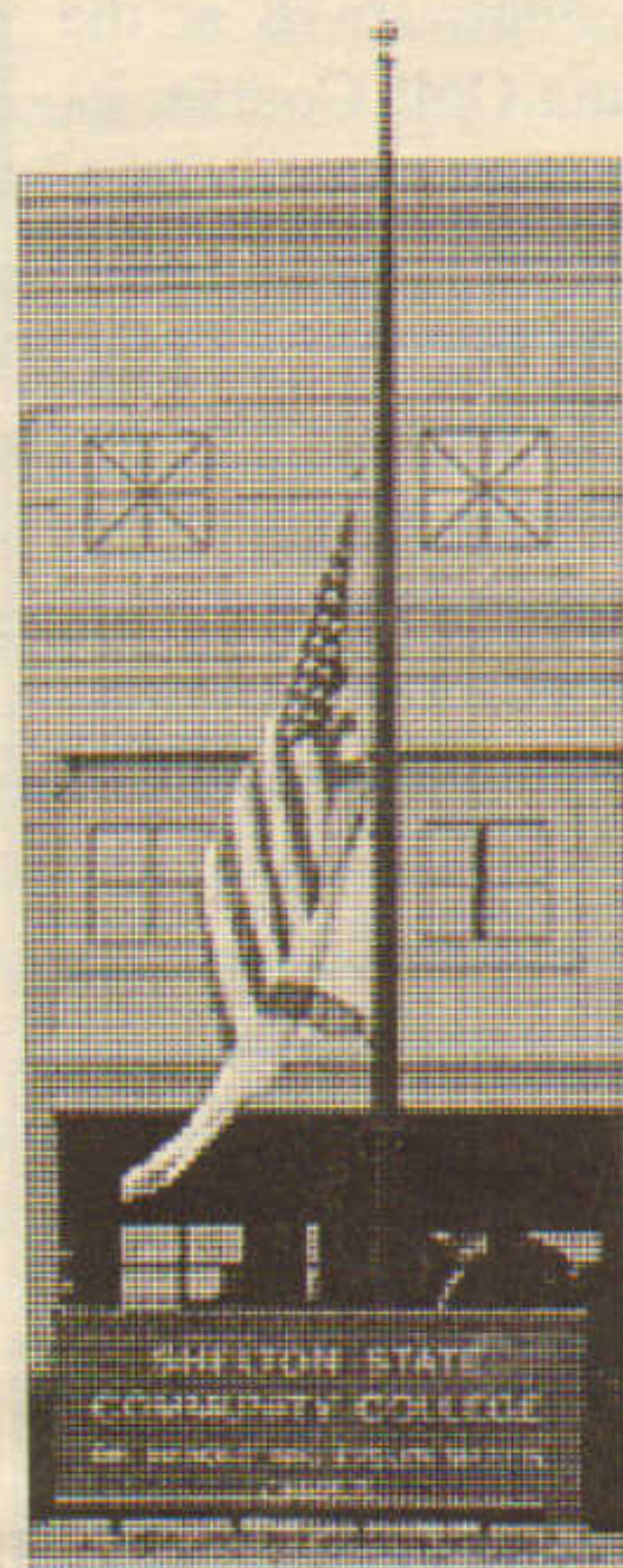
Holly Holman admits the attack has frightened her profoundly—and has affected her plans for the future. She wrote that the offer to have her fly to Chicago for the holidays has her feeling scared already; the idea of flying "sent chills down my spine. I was scared to death about a trip that is merely a suggestion right now. Obviously, this tragedy has affected me and probably will for a while."

Holman also wonders about the effect of this on others of her generation. "Lately, I've been seeing news stories about how the self-absorbed Generation X is being brought together by this. I

resent the assumption about our being totally selfish, but I do hope that when people my age start their adult lives, a part of this will be with them and humble them."

What do you think?

The *Courier* would like to keep up with—and share—the views of the students (and faculty and staff) concerning the events of Sept. 11 and their aftermath. Write your thoughts down and drop them off at the *Courier* office in Room 2319. We plan an ongoing column in the newspaper.



Shelton flew its American flag at half-staff for several days after the attack. But then Gov. Don Siegelman urged everyone to fly flags at full-staff to honor the Alabama National Guard members who have been called to active duty to fight terrorism

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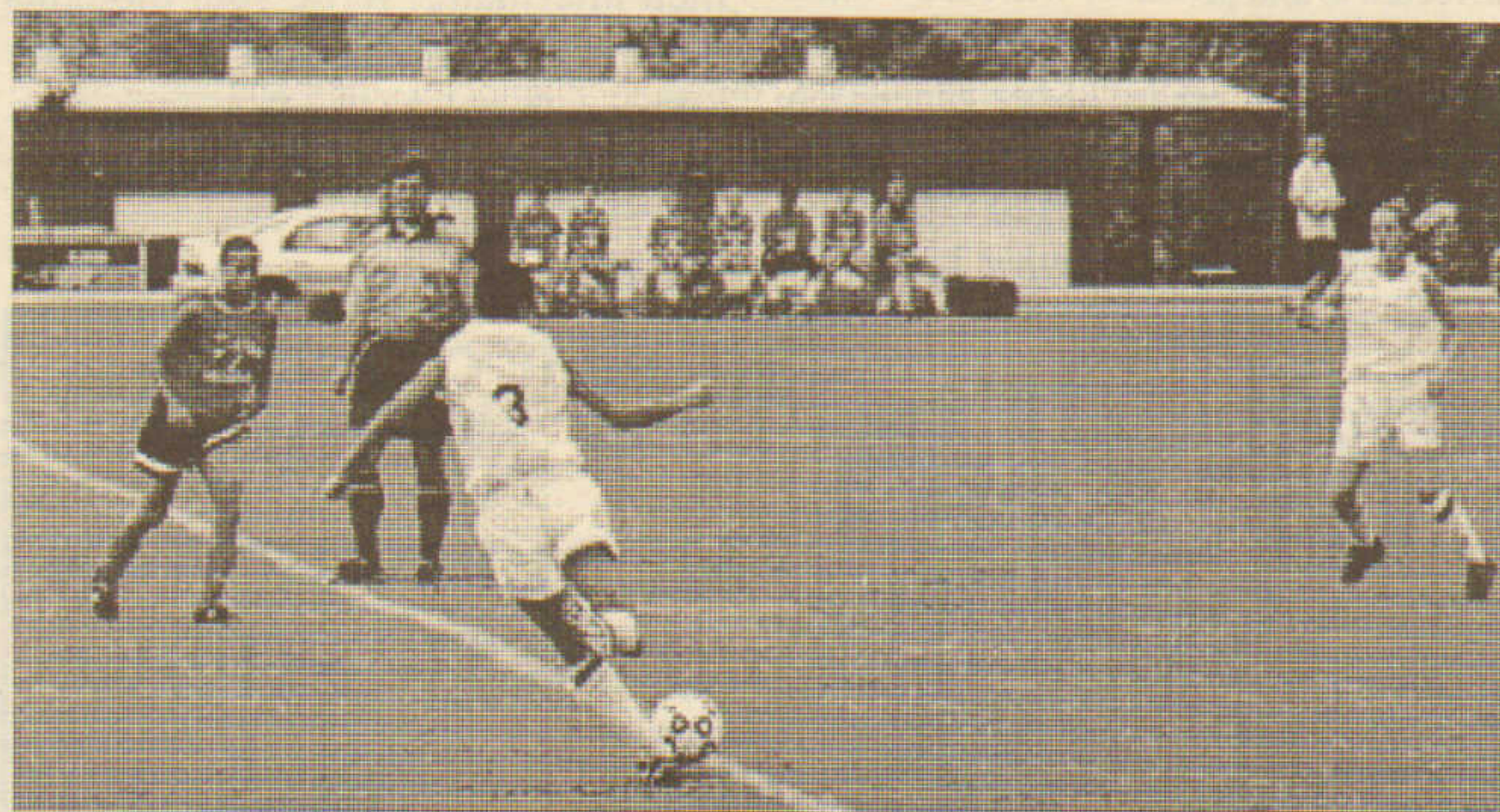


Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—



Coach Christian looks for better days ahead



Freshman Michelle Khalilian, forward, passes the ball to Nikki Haynes, sophomore forward from Birmingham, during the Sept. 23 home game against Darton College. Photo by Missy Boney

By Kimberly Rich

The Lady Buccaneers soccer squad has struggled mightily this sea-

son in the early going, standing at 0-4-1 after five matches.

This is a major letdown for a team that went 10-4-2 last season, with five

shutouts and a margin of victory which included a 9-0 smashing of Perimeter College.

Sunday's game against Darton College of Albany, Ga., had as poor a result as any, but head coach Nellie Christian says she remains upbeat. "I definitely saw much improvement in their play," Christian said.

Christian said part of the problem this year is a schedule that has taken its toll. "We are about to hit a part of the schedule where we should see some wins. The girls haven't given up and are hoping to come out with a couple of wins."

Besides Coach Christian, the soccer team is coached by assistant Madonna Thompson and the team is managed by Brandon Barnes and Jamie Robinson.

Golf team starts fall season with great play

Although Shelton came in second in its own tournament Sept. 16-18 at the University of Alabama Golf Course, its play was so sterling that usually fiery coach Matt Terry was only smiling after the match. "If we play like this all year, we'll be fine!" Terry said.

A former Div. II national champion, the Buccaneers came in second to Div. I Calhoun State in the recent tournament. Sophomore Will Taylor played some of the greatest golf in the history of the college, with three rounds in the 60s. He was as enthusiastic as his coach about his team's prospects: "I though we played really well as a team, and it's a good start to the season. It's a building block."

Will Taylor: 68-69-66...203

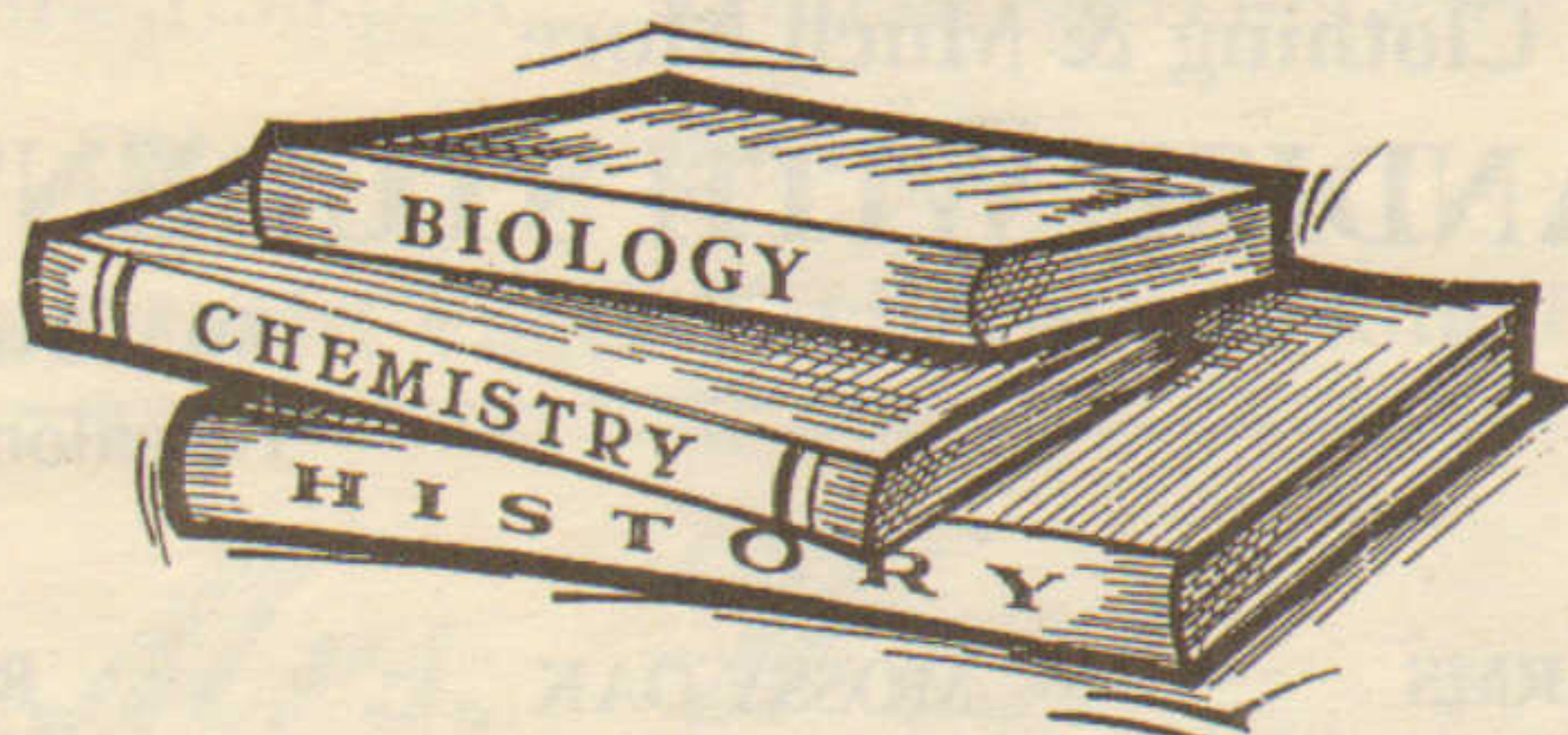
Pope Spruiell: 72-67-68...207

Callie Andren 77-71-76...224

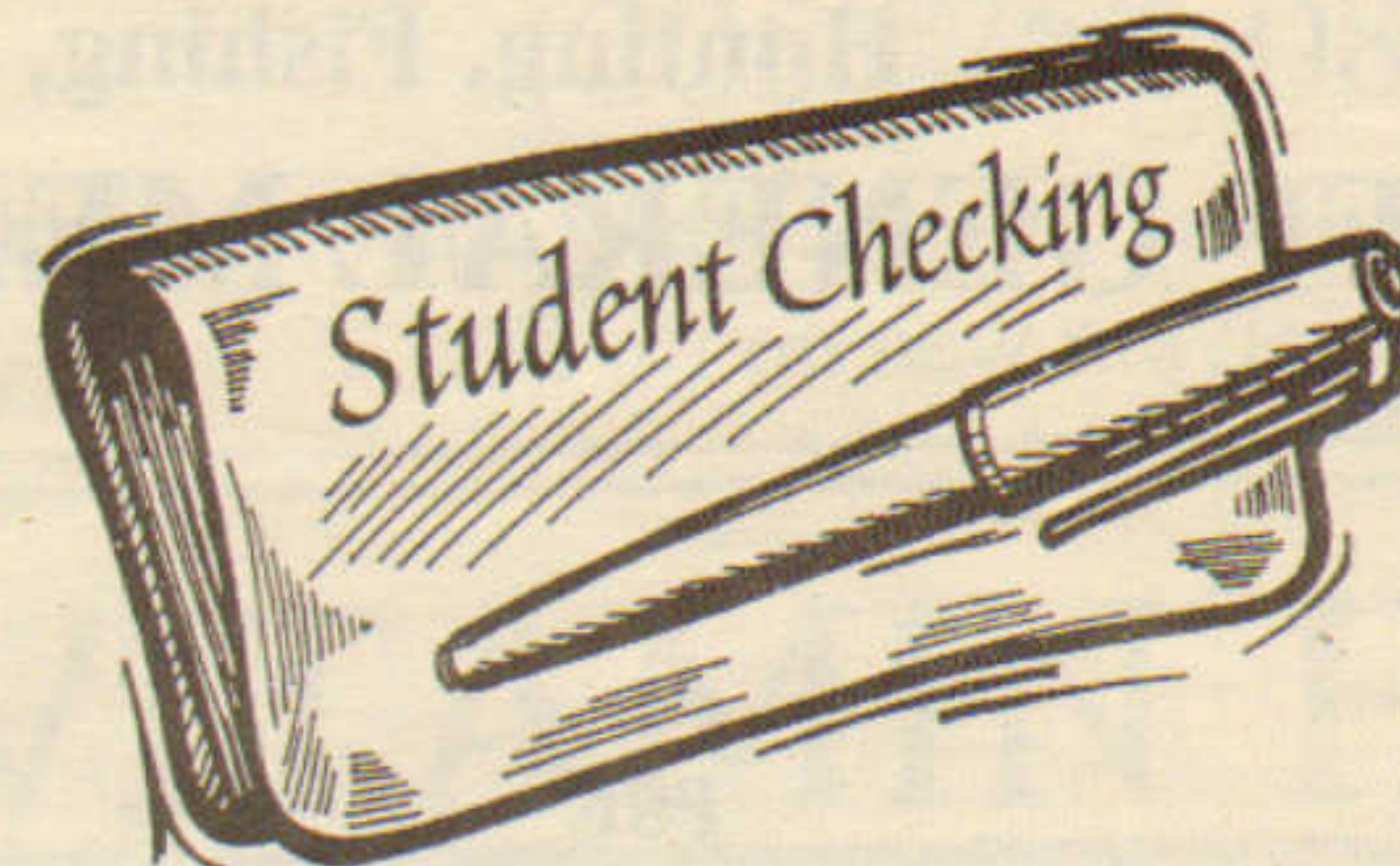
Jason Davidson: 78-77-71...226

David Rasco: 79-74-74...227

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Courier offers third survey of the local band scene

By Danielle Dean and Stacey Turner

Third of Three Parts

Over the summer a couple of bands have made quite a name for themselves among Tuscaloosa night-lifers. These two bands have been seen all over the strip and downtown all summer long and have satisfied the crowd with a jumpin' night to remember.

The first band, Downright, has been reconstructed as a four-man band where each member happens to be proficient on multiple instruments. This has a huge effect on the variety of music Downright can jam to. On their web site they refer to their musical style as being modern pop, post-rock and pop-jazz.

Downright's first debuted their self-titled album at their CD release party on Jan. 11, 2001 at 4th & 23rd. If you need to try it before you buy it, the band has a web site that allows fans to demo some of their songs. To find out more about Downright, go to their "pimp-tight" web site at: www.downrightthesite.com.

The eldest member of the band

Mark Lanter, who plays the drums and percussion, is a teacher of drums for the University of Alabama, and also director of the Alabama Jazz Band. Lanter has played professionally since age 14, involved with groups such as Forecast, The Cast and Vova Nova.

Mathew Devine began playing classical piano at a very early age and now plays the organ, piano, keyboard and bass for Downright. Devine's keyboard style is representative of artists such as Joe Zawinul, Jimmy Smith and John Madeski.

The two musicians teamed up when Devine joined Lanter for a free jam-session Wednesday nights at 4th and 23rd.

After a year, the duo found Steve Lewis who can play a variety of instruments such as: guitar, acoustic and electric basses. As a songwriter, Lewis mirrors the influence of such legends as Frank Zappa, The Beatles and Bob Dylan. With a degree in his grasp, he has now set his sights on being a film score composer.

The latest member to join Downright is Kevin Cowart who specializes in instruments including: the saxophone,

flute, keyboard and bass. Cowart is not only the newest member but the youngest member also. At Cowart's age of 19 the question was asked, how do you keep up with band and school, too? Cowart replied, "My love for music."

Downright plays at many hot attractions such as the arena at Oak Mountain before the July 27, 2001 Widespread Panic show in Pelham, Ala. As well as the 2001 City Stages in downtown Birmingham. They always seem to attract a killer crowd, so it just might be worth your time to see what the talk is all about.

Another band, which has only been seen throughout Tuscaloosa for a few months, is called Tempered. If you want to get jiggy with it, this is a party band that plays cover songs ranging from older tunes such as "Brickhouse" and "Tainted Love" to recent hits such as "Kryptonite." Tempered can also show their creative side by rapping to the rhymes of, Snoop Dogg, Eminem and Limp Bizkit.

Tempered is a young band of four, who have already been seen all over town at places such as Hales Tavern, Rhythm and Brews and the Backporch. They say the plan to play original songs is in the future. However, until then, Tempered is

having a great time entertaining the crowd.

Lead Vocalist Michael Prewitt said that, "the only thing we have going for us right now is our love for music and that we all like to entertain," Prewitt also stated, "the music business is all about putting on a good show."

The "jokester of the group" claims Prewitt, is P.J. Dickey who plays bass and backup vocals. Dickey has even been known to drop his drawers on stage while playing a song. This wild entertainer formally played with 50 Ways and Fools Rush.

At age 20, Jeff is Tempered's talented drummer who played for the Million Dollar Band at UA. His influences are jazz and hard rock.

The last intro to this crowd drawing party band is 21-year-old Wood, who plays lead guitar. Woody is from Huntsville and absolutely loves to jam out to some hard rock such as Pearl Jam and Creed.

If you're going out looking for a good time, watch for when these bands will be playing at Tuscaloosa is local night attractions.

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Courier publishes Maxwell's Crossing, creative issue, once again for the holidays

All of the college's potential Hemingways, Faulkners, Frosts and Picassos are urged to prepare their best work for submission to *Maxwell's Crossing*, the *Courier's* annual creative issue scheduled for publishing on Dec. 6.

The special issue will remain on the newsstands until Jan. 17.

Bring your submissions of short stories, poetry, essays and art work to the *Courier* office in Rm. 2319.

Deadline for submission is Nov. 21. Selection of material will be done by the *Courier* staff and by members of the college's English department.

Stepping Out at the Bean

By Claire Parkerson

The Shelton State theatre department prepares for the first performance of the year, *Stepping Out*. Auditions for this comedy about tap dancing were held Sept. 4 and Sept. 5, and will be performed Oct. 12-21.

For those who are interested in trying out for the next performance, auditions will be held Oct. 1 and Oct. 2. The auditions will be for the musical

Fantastiks. This production will be for Shelton State students only and will be performed Nov. 15-18. They will be casting about 10-12 people, so if you think that a stage is where you need to be then keep a look out for what is coming.

These are only two production to be done out of an eight show season. For more information on auditions and productions visit Theatre Tuscaloosa's web site www.theatretus.com or check for flyers around the Shelton State campus.

Terrific Tuesday concert series revised

Oct. 2, Musicale featuring Shelton Applied Students

Oct. 9, Art and Music of the Baroque Period

Oct. 16, Piano Duo, Eric and Nicky Wilson

Oct. 23, Shelton State Jazz Band, Director Alan Blackshear, Atrium

Oct. 30, Pianist from University of Alabama-students of Amanda Penick

Nov. 6, Amanda Penick- Piano

Nov. 13, Musicale Program featuring applied students at Shelton

Nov. 20, University of South Alabama Music Department

Nov. 27, Student Recital David Woolbright, tenor

Dec. 4, Bach to Rock Christmas Program, Directors: Alan Blackshear and Glinda Blackshear, Atrium.

All Aboard!



Phi Theta Kappa sponsored Get on Board Day. If any students missed Get on Board Day and are interested in joining clubs and organization they should contact Tracy Branch-Abbott.

Abbott's e-mail address is TBranch@shelton.cc.al.us. Abbott's office is located on the third floor.



Left LaToya L. Freeman and Right LaKeisa S. Mobley enjoy the bungee run at Get on Board Day!

Right Students line up to join student organizations

Photos by Missy Boney

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Ellen Englebert
Owner

Welcome to the new world of DVD



Courier writer
Chris Yarbrough
(L) consults with
a Circuit Center
salesman over the
latest DVD
models offered by
the store

By Chris Yarbrough

In the ever-changing world we live in electronics change quite quickly. The Digital Video Disc debuted in March of 1997. Its main niche was its superiority over the traditional methods such as the VHS and laserdisc. The DVD combined strengths of the two to become the new leader in home entertainment.

For the past 20 years VHS has

been the most popular method of home theater. Being compact made it easy for people to view films in a new way. The problem with VHS is that it degrades over time. If you watch your favorite movie 100 times, you start to see streaks. This is the by-product of the film they use.

The DVD uses laser technology like a CD. Even after 1,000 viewing, your favorite movie still looks like it did the first day you bought it. When

Laserdisc was introduced film buffs went crazy. It allowed them to experience the same effect they got from the movie theaters. The problem with Laserdisc was size. In a world where consumers want smaller objects, the record size movies never caught on. Also the prices did not either.

When you go to the Fox 12 movie theater you watch the movie on a rectangle screen. The TV you watch at your house is usually square. When you watch a movie at your home you lose the sides of the movie. With DVD, movies are shown in wide screen to give the consumer the director's original vision of the film.

Once you choose to go with DVD you have to find out which one to buy. Therefore, since I've worked with electronics over the past year I would like to help you decide on which DVD you would like to purchase.

In a short time DVD players have become very affordable. They start as low as \$99 and move up from there. There are advantages to price, but not everybody needs the most expensive

player. The less expensive players are safe, but they lack features and sometimes performance. I reviewed a few different players all ranging in price.

The first was the Apex AD 1500. It retails for \$99. Overall performance on the Apex was decent. However, the main problem is with imperfect discs. Whenever a disc is dirty or scratched it freezes up and will not play. It also lacks Dolby Digital sound. This would allow the viewer to get the best possible sound from the movie.

Another player is the Panasonic DVDRP56. The overall performance was good. It plays imperfect discs well. This player also has all the features you need for a complete home theater package. Priced at \$250 it is a great value.

The best advice anyone can give you is to demo the product yourself. You will never know what it is like until you hear and see it yourself. It is not likely that you will spend \$15,000 on your next system, but \$600 will get you something greater than you have ever had before. Now you can welcome yourself to the world of DVD.

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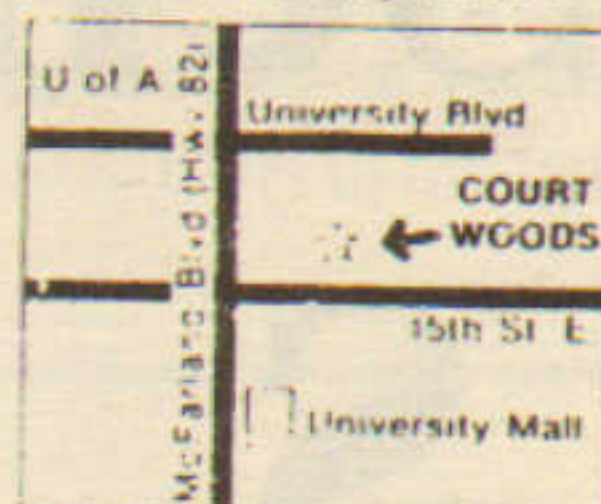
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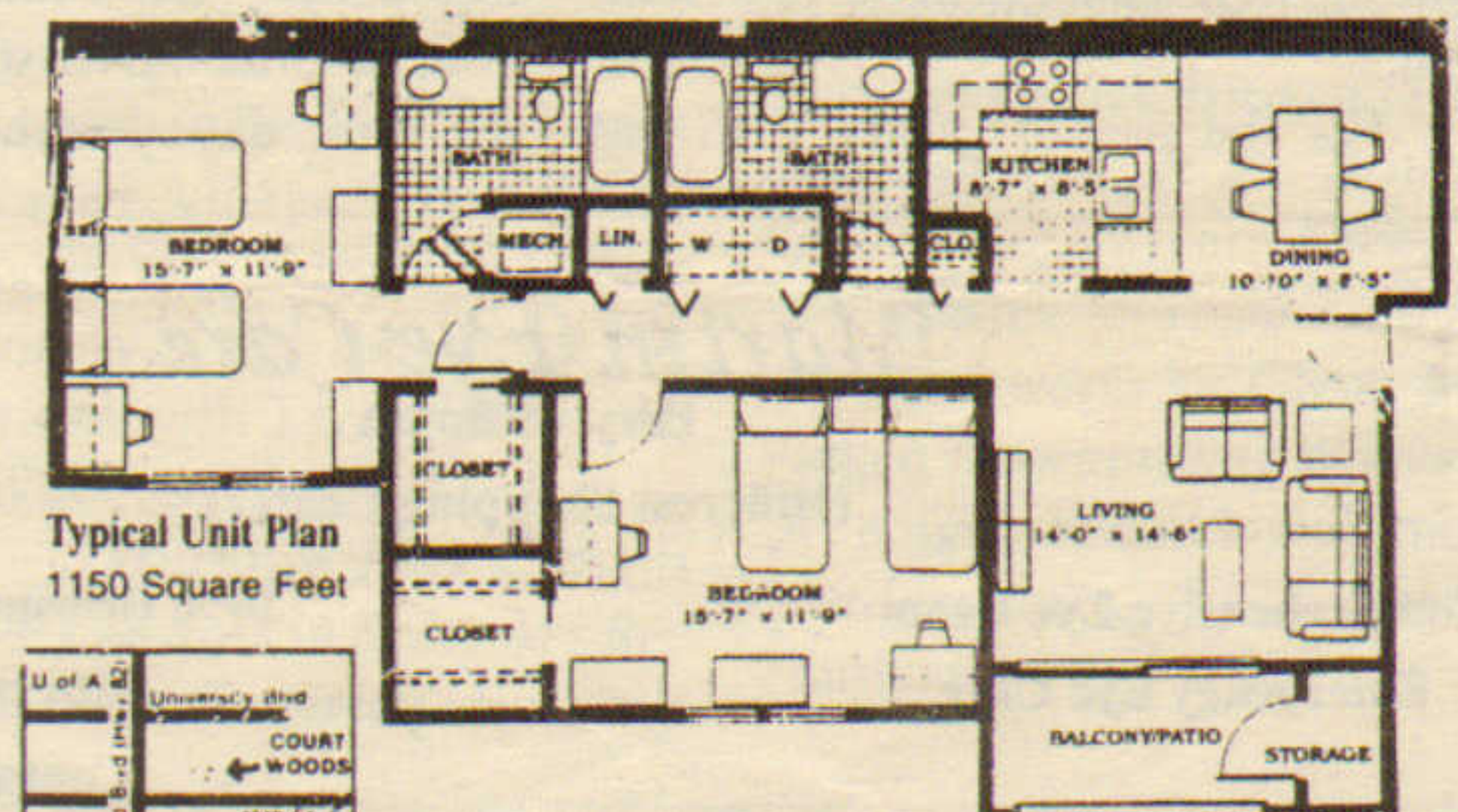


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